

JULY 27, 2010

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES



Hō'ola Nōio

SPECIAL REPORT



The Honolulu Community Action Program, Incorporated (HCAP), held a full-day Board of Directors' program orientation on July 9, 2010, as a follow-up to its Board Governance training. Keith Yabusaki, OCS Acting Executive Director, and Laurie Hirohata, OCS CSBG Administrator, joined this most informative tour to learn first hand about HCAP's diverse programs, and to strengthen partnerships between our agencies. Some of HCAP's active Board Members who attended the field trip were Frank Lopez, William Shiroma, Aldora Kahele, Anne Chipchase, Kevin Souza, Terrence Aratani, Christopher Hernandez, Lance Jyo, and Don Anderson.

HCAP Head Start vans transported Board Members and HCAP staff to several sites. Site visits of agency programs and services encompassed:

1) Youth Services Education Program situated at their newly renovated Emily Street location. The program started about ten years ago with a State Grants-In-Aid administered by OCS that helps youth 14 to 21 years of age complete their high school education. This past June, one hundred young adults made the most of their second chance at graduating and at life by earning their high school diplomas. Kudos to Krystal Ikeda and her energetic staff for creating a brightly colored motif that complements this successful self-sufficient project. Two graduates (far right and sixth from the right) addressed the group sharing their heart warming personal experiences.



Krystal Ikeda and her staff, along with two graduates

2) Kumuhonua Transitional Housing Program in Kalaeloa, Barbers Point represents a 70-unit transitional shelter with capacity to accommodate up to 140 adults in safe, clean, and secure housing while seeking permanent housing. The West Oahu shelter program management staff consists of two case managers, one program manager, one resident manager and one program aide to assist clients in obtaining proper life and work readiness skills enabling them to secure employment. Program Manager Maile Keliipio-Acoba and Steve Kahanaoi greeted the group and took them on a tour of the facility which includes a lounge and common area, kitchens, computer lab, laundry rooms and a typical studio unit. Residents perform community service and participate in cleaning, maintaining and securing the facility and grounds. Two residents, who were preparing to move to permanent housing, shared their personal triumphs towards recovery.



3) Central District Service or Makalapa Community Center (Fort Shafter to Sunset Beach), one of five neighborhood district centers. Parents and Children Together (PACT) and HCAP operate a youth program for youth ages 7 - 18 years that live in and around Puuwai Momi, offering educational, recreational and community support services. Iron Chef Morimoto recently served as a judge in the Central District's 3rd Annual Iron Chef Competition. During a working lunch, short presentations highlighting programs administered and operated by HCAP at the five neighborhood district centers were given. The presentations showed how HCAP optimizes services island-wide on Oahu.



a) Sue Quinn, Central District Community Service Manager, briefed attendees on two programs: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Waiawa Correctional Center Work Furlough Program. LIHEAP is made up of 1) Gas or Electric Bill Payment Assistance - An energy credit for households having difficulty paying their gas or electric bills; and 2) Energy Crisis Intervention - Financial assistance for households whose electricity has been or is scheduled to be shut off. The Waiawa Correctional Center Work Furlough Program was initiated as a pilot program in 2008 by the Central District staff. This program provides employment services to help incarcerated individuals who are soon to be released to increase their employment skills.

b) Chad Iramina, Kalihi-Palama (Nuuanu to Fort Shafter) District Community Worker, spoke about the Laumaka/TJ Maohoney work furlough programs that assist prisoners to successfully transition and reintegrate back into society. Chad also briefly discussed their food distribution program, The Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). HCAP is just one of OCS' many partners.

c) Deb Warman, Windward District (Sunset to Waimanalo) Community Services Manager, talked about job readiness training and Enhanced Food and Nutrition Education Program. She also spoke on Toys 4 Tots, Secret Santa for Seniors, Shop with Cop, Angel Tree and holiday food baskets.

d) Haku Lovell, Leahi District (Hawaii Kai to Nuuanu) Community Services Manager, shared that as part of National Library Week, HCAP received a donation of over 300 books, videos and CDs from Arcadia Retirement Residence. The donations will help start libraries at other elderly homes within Leahi district. Lovell also discussed Kokua Kekahi I Kekahi Project. This project helps homeless, low-income families, and the elderly to supplement their income by providing such basic necessities such as canned goods, non-perishables and hygienic products.

e) Val Tavai, Leeward District Community Services Manager humbly explained her program efforts including the Ohana Produce Day. HCAP is also promoting and advocating for the Hawaii Literacy Program.



Before leaving, group members did a tour and orientation of the Makalapa Head Start classroom. Head Start Director Lynn Cabato addressed the group concerning the Head Start Program.



4) Lanakila Head Start Classroom was the last stop on the agenda. Many of the young children were napping, but the group still took a wonderful tour of the classroom.



Noelle Borja tries out the Head Start furniture.

To maximize use of time and entertain those on the tour, HCAP staff conducted in-transit briefings on Malama Pono Youth Mentoring Program, Senior Employment Program (SCSEP), Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).



Roxanne Akana, Counselor-Mentor, gave a moving talk on Malama Pono. Malama Pono provides mentoring to children and youth (ages 4-18 years old) who have an incarcerated parent. Mentors build and maintain good mentoring relationships, act as positive role models, and offer support and encouragement. The children meet with their mentor 1 to 2 hours per week for at least one year.

Frank Yim, SCSEP Program Coordinator, sees the value of seniors in the workforce. SCSEP provides part-time employment to low-income seniors (55 years and over). Seniors are trained and placed as temporary hires to perform a variety of services in public, private or non-profit agencies. Yvonne Chong administers this program on behalf of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations – Workforce Development Division.



HCAP's WAP Technical Specialist, Robert Dahilig, explained easy ways for the family to extend the life of their CFL bulbs, conserve water, correct use of ceiling fans and the importance of turning lights off. WAP installs energy-saving devices such as CFLs, solar water heater systems, Energy Star refrigerators, and low-flow shower heads in homes of low-income Oahu residents experiencing high utility costs. Clients also receive valuable education about reducing energy use. An OCS team administers this program on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy with HCAP being one of its valued partners.

Karl Espaldon, Planning Director, concluded the tour with a dynamic and comprehensive speech concerning the current CSBG ARRA program. He emphasized the accomplishments and outcomes for the board members.



OCS would like to thank HCAP for a job well done! We appreciate it!